

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 2 as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) An electronic component storing case comprising:
 - a case member capable of accommodating an electronic component and having an opening in a first end face thereof;
 - a shutter member which is arranged in the opening of said case member, pivotal outwardly to open/close the opening, and biased in a closing direction by a first resilient member; and
 - a lever member which has a first end extending to an outside of said case member from at least one side surface thereof perpendicular to said first end face of said case member, and a second end which acts on said shutter member, said lever member being adapted to convert an operating force to be applied to said first end into a biasing force for biasing said shutter member in an opening direction, said operating force being caused by insertion of said case member into electronic equipment.

2. (Currently Amended) The case according to claim 1, wherein said shutter member in ~~a closed~~ an open state is movable into said case member.

3. (Original) The case according to claim 1, wherein
 - a groove is formed in at least one side surface perpendicular to said first end face of said case member to extend in a direction perpendicular to said first end face, and

said first end of said lever member extends into the groove and actuates said first end outwardly from the groove, so that said second end of said lever member applies an operating force on said shutter member in the opening direction.

4. (Original) The case according to claim 3, wherein the groove serves as a guide when inserting said case member into electronic equipment.

5. (Original) The case according to claim 1, wherein said lever member is rotatably, axially supported in said case member, and said second end of said lever member displaces a to-be-operated portion projecting from a rotating shaft which rotates interlocked with said shutter member, so as to allow said shutter member to receive a force in the opening direction.

6. (Original) The case according to claim 5, wherein said rotating shaft has a flat plate-like rib extending from a shaft core, and said shutter member is supported by said rib, so as to allow said shutter member to rotate interlocked with said rotating shaft and move in a direction to be guided by a flat surface of said rib.

7. (Original) The case according to claim 6, further comprising a second resilient member which biases said shutter member, at least when said shutter member is open, in an outward direction of said case member along said flat surface of said rib,

wherein said shutter member can move into said case member upon reception of an external force, perpendicular to said first end face, toward an interior of said case member.

8. (Original) The case according to claim 1, wherein when said shutter member is closed, an outer surface of said shutter member is flush with or set back from a surface formed by an end of a side surface that surrounds said first end face.

9. (Original) The case according to claim 1, wherein when said shutter member is closed, at least part of a side surface that surrounds said first end face projects from an outer surface of said shutter member.

10. (Original) An electronic device comprising:
an electronic component storing case according to claim 1; and
an electronic component fixed in said case member such that a connecting connector thereof opposes said shutter member,
wherein when said shutter member is open, said connecting connector is so exposed as to be able to be connected.

11. (Original) An electronic device comprising:
an electronic component storing case according to claim 2; and
an electronic component fixed in said case member such that a connecting connector thereof opposes said shutter member,

wherein when said shutter member is open, said connecting connector is so exposed as to be able to be connected, and said shutter member can be accommodated between said connecting connector and case member.

12. (Original) The device according to claim 11, wherein a direction of displacement of said shutter member into said case member substantially coincides with a direction of connection stroke for connection with an opposite connector to which said connecting connector is to be connected.